

VZCZCXRO6893
OO RUEHGH
DE RUEHUL #2012/01 3630749
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 290749Z DEC 09
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6582
RUCPDO/USDOC WASHDC 9555
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC//DDI/OEA//
RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//FPA//
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC//DB-Z//
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 0648
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 7095
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 7155
RUEHGH/AMCONSUL SHANGHAI 1637
RUEHSH/AMCONSUL SHENYANG 5468
RUEHIN/AIT TAIPEI 4394
RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE 7605
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1876
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 3177
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 2252
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 2858

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 SEOUL 002012

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [MARR](#) [ECON](#) [KPAO](#) [KS](#) [US](#)

SUBJECT: SEOUL - PRESS BULLETIN; December 29, 2009

TOP HEADLINES

Chosun Ilbo, All TVs
Blue House Poised to Give Former Samsung Group Chairman Lee Kun-hee
Year-End Pardon

JoongAng Ilbo
Ruling and Opposition Parties Agree to Discuss Budget for
Controversial River Project Separately from Other State Budgets

Dong-a Ilbo
Security Tightened for U.S.-Bound Air Passengers after Failed Attack
on U.S. Plane

Hankook Ilbo, Hankyoreh Shinmun
Rival Parties at a Crossroads between Compromise and Head-on
Collision in Budget Stalemate

Segye Ilbo
ROK Seeking \$20 Billion Nuclear Plant Deal with Turkey

Seoul Shinmun
Survey: Two in Three Sex Offenders "Repeat" Their Crimes

DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS

The ROKG decided yesterday to donate 26 billion won (\$22.2 million)
for humanitarian projects in North Korea via the World Health
Organization, UNICEF and private aid groups. (Dong-a, Hankyoreh,
Segye, Seoul)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

According to the Dec. 27 issue of The Washington Post, Pakistani
Scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan claimed that North Korea may have been
enriching uranium on a small scale by 2002, with "maybe 3,000 or
even more" centrifuges. He went on to say that during a visit to
North Korea in 1999, North Korean hosts showed him boxes containing

components of three finished nuclear warheads, which he was told could be attached to missiles within an hour. (Chosun, JoongAng, Hankyoreh, Segye)

According to Daily NK, an online newspaper focusing on issues relating to North Korea, Pyongyang recently issued a decree banning its citizens from possessing or using foreign currencies. (JoongAng, Dong-a, Segye, Daily NK)

MEDIA ANALYSIS

-N. Korea

Most ROK media replayed a Dec. 27 report by The Washington Post quoting Pakistani nuclear scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan as claiming that North Korea may have been enriching uranium on a small scale by 2002, with "maybe 3,000 or even more" centrifuges. He was further quoted as saying that during a visit to North Korea in 1999, North Korean hosts showed him boxes containing components of three finished nuclear warheads, which he was told could be attached to missiles within an hour.

-Failed Terror Attack on U.S. Plane

Right-of-center JoongAng Ilbo editorialized: "As long as Osama bin Laden-the mastermind behind the Sept. 11 terror attacks that took the lives of some 3,000 people-is alive and well, terrorist attacks

SEOUL 00002012 002 OF 002

by (members of) al-Qaida remain a serious threat. In this regard, the fact that a suspected (terrorist) managed to board a Detroit-bound airliner wearing an explosive device poses a grave problem. ... A terrorist attack on a plane is not an issue that a single country can prevent alone. ... Without close international information-sharing and cooperation, (these types of attacks) cannot be prevented. Needless to say, the ROK is not (exempt from participating in) this international cooperation."

STEPHENS